

What we claim is:

1. A wire chafing stand comprising a frame formed of steel wire rod represented by a wire rim configured in any desired geometry having longitudinal and lateral sides and a longitudinal axis extending from said lateral sides and a pair of wire legs pivotally connected to the rim for permitting the wire legs to fold relative to the frame so that the chafing stand can be folded into a closed position having a narrow lateral profile or into an open position for supporting the stand on a level surface and having a hinge pin assembly for each of the wire legs comprising stop means in an arrangement such that each pair of wire legs will pivot outwardly in opposite directions when the wire chafing stand is folded into an open position with each leg establishing a fixed position at an inclined angle of less than 90 degrees relative to the rim thereby permitting the legs to stand firmly on any level surface and preventing the chafing stand from unintentionally collapsing.

2. A wire chafing stand as defined in claim 1 wherein each wire leg lies in the chafing stand open position at a fixed inclined angle of between about 60° and 85° relative to the rim.

3. A wire chafing stand as defined in claim 2 wherein each of the two pair of wire legs have a common bottom section with the wire chafing stand further comprising a fuel heater connector assembly having two detachable sections with one end of each detachable section connected to a bottom section and the opposite ends being detachably connected to one another for supporting a plurality of chafing fuel heaters in the wire chafing stand open position.

4. A wire chafing stand as defined in claim 3 further comprising at least one hinge pin assembly for each detachable section with each hinge pin assembly pivotally connecting the detachable section at one end thereof to a bottom section to permit each detachable section to be pivoted open when folding the chafing stand to the open position and having means for detachably interlocking the opposite ends thereof when folding the chafing stand into the closed position.

5. A wire chafing stand as defined in claim 4 wherein said means for detachably interlocking the opposite ends of each detachable section comprises an end section for each detachable section with the end section of one detachable section having an overhanging member adapted to fit over the end section of the other detachable section upon folding the chafing stand into the open position and further comprising a wire tongue formed at said one end section and a groove for receiving the wire tongue formed at said other end section.

6. A wire chafing stand as defined in claim 4 wherein each detachable section of said fuel heater connector assembly comprises at least one wire rod holder including a depressed portion for supporting a chafing fuel heater.

7. A wire chafing stand as defined in claim 6 wherein the lateral sides of said rim include an integrated handle for manually holding the stand.